



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Contact: Carol Dahmen
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Brings In Team of Experts to Help Manage Federal Voter Funds

Secretary of State Continues Reforms by hiring MGT of America, Inc.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today he is hiring a management research and consulting firm to help him tighten policies and mechanisms necessary for the administration of important federally funded voting programs in California.

Shelley said MGT of America, Inc. – hired through a competitive bidding process -- will be awarded the contract to help provide the Secretary of State's office with additional management, audit, financial, and performance measurement services for spending of U.S. Help America Vote Act (HAVA) dollars allocated to California. Congress passed HAVA in 2002, allocating \$3.8 billion to states for improvement of voting system infrastructure, voter education, and training of election officials. California is expected to receive over \$350 million of these funds.

MGT is a 30-year-old, full-service national management research and consulting firm. It specializes in public sector clients, including state and local agencies in California, through its Sacramento office.

Shelley began a process in May to hire an outside consultant, approving a plan to do so on June 9. Staff members wrote a formal request for bids on the contract, which was distributed on June 23. Five bidders responded to the request by the July 30 deadline, after which staff members evaluated the bids, heard oral presentations from bidders, and selected MGT for the contract, which is not to exceed \$400,000 annually.

Award of the contract to MGT follows Shelley's unveiling on September 24 of new directives to centralize the HAVA program's management structure, strengthen work processes, revise reporting procedures, and develop more detailed compliance rules.

The contract with MGT for the work -- which is mandated by HAVA -- will be paid for through HAVA funds specifically allocated for HAVA operational costs.

"We expect MGT to begin work within a number of days to assist us over the next two years to ensure successful implementation of HAVA programs throughout California," said Shelley, who on September 7 brought in a separate consulting firm to enhance the administration of HAVA on a short-term basis during the competitive bidding process.

Shelley said the two consulting firms will immediately begin working together under a single, coordinated, HAVA management team.

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As he looked forward to having his new consultant on the job, Shelley praised the work of his interim consulting firm, CPS, a public entity that provides management services to state agencies.

“We are greatly indebted to CPS for getting this effort started to strengthen our systems as we went through the competitive bidding process for a long-term management resource,” said Shelley. “I am confident we are on the road to a HAVA program characterized by strict procedures, clear processes, and measurable performance standards.”